



## Release Highlights: March 17, 2005

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### MONTANA

#### Wholesale Trade, 2002 Economic Census, Geographic Area Series <http://ceic.mt.gov/EconCen.htm>

In 2002, Montana had \$7.2 billion in wholesale trade sales, with nearly 14,000 employees working in 1,485 establishments and earning an annual payroll of over \$430 million. Nondurable goods comprised over 56% of sales at \$4.0 billion, 43% of employees, 41% of payroll and 40% of establishments. The largest nondurable wholesalers are those that handle farm products, with sales of nearly \$1.1 billion dollars. Grocery and petroleum wholesalers each had sales of over \$1.0 billion dollars. Machinery, equipment and supplies wholesalers had the largest sales with \$641 million in the durable products category. Second largest durable goods sales, with \$451 million, were lumber and other construction materials wholesalers.

Nondurable goods typically will perish or wear out in less than a year. Groceries, paper, apparel, farm products, petroleum and flowers are all nondurable goods. Durable goods typically last for over a year. Examples include automobiles, furniture, equipment and machinery.

The Wholesale Trade Sector (sector 42) comprises establishments engaged in wholesaling merchandise, generally without transformation, and rendering services incidental to the sale of merchandise.

The wholesaling process is an intermediate step in the distribution of merchandise. Wholesalers are organized to sell or arrange the purchase or sale of:

1. goods for resale (i.e. goods sold to other wholesalers or retailers),
2. capital or durable nonconsumer goods, or
3. raw and intermediate materials and supplies used in production.

The Geographic Series state report presents, for establishments of firms with payroll, general statistics on number of establishments, sales, payroll, employment, operating expenses and inventory by kind of business for the state, metropolitan, and micropolitan statistical areas, counties and places with 2,500 inhabitants or more.

### CONTACT

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### RECENTLY RELEASED

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Age/Gender Population  
Estimates for the state, 2004

### UPCOMING RELEASES

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**Spring 2005**  
Population Estimates  
Counties, 2004